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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/532,679

04/26/2005

Tor Sverre Lande

2005_0621A

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7590

01/06/2006

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.

2033 K STREET N. W.

SUITE 800

WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

HAFIZ, MURSALIN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2814

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,679

Applicant(s)

LANDE, TOR SVERRE

Examiner

Mursalin B. Hafiz

Art Unit

2814

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 2,4,6 and 13-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/26/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Amendment filed on April 26, 2005 is acknowledged. Claims 3 and 5 amended and claims 13-15 added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sridhar et al (US 5,336,937).

Regarding claim 1, Sridhar discloses in Fig.1 a floating gate MOS transistor [10] comprising:

one or more control gates [G];

an active channel [between S and D];

at least one floating gate [F] disposed substantially between the control gate(s) [G] and the active channel;

first and second non-linear resistances [42 and 40] coupling the floating gate [F] to first and second control voltage sources [34 and 35] respectively, the resistances forming a voltage divider network which sets the operating voltage of the floating gate.

Regarding claim 3, Sridhar discloses in Fig. 2 an electronic device [200] comprising one or more floating gate transistors [100].

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Regarding claim 5, Sridhar disclosed in Fig. 1 a method of operating the floating gate transistor by applying first and second fixed voltages to the first and second voltage sources respectively so as to set the floating gate to a desired operating voltage by an appropriate selection of the first and second voltages [column 6 line 65-67].

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 13-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 2 prior art does not teach non-linear resistances are respective diodes, or transistors operating as diodes in combination with other limitations of the claim. Claims 13-15 depend on claim 2. Regarding claim 4 and 6, prior art does not teach means for varying the voltage applied to one or both of the first and second control voltages sources in combination with other limitations of the claim.

Claims 7-12 are allowed.

Regarding claim 7, prior art does not teach the non-linear resistance being a MOS transistor having its gate and source connected together, resistor source being coupled to said voltage source and the transistor drain being coupled to the floating gate in combination with other limitations of the claim. Claim 8 depends on claim 7.

Regarding claim 9, prior art does not teach a conductor at least partially surrounding said insulating region, wherein in use the conductor is coupled to an

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operating voltage in combination with other limitations of the claim. Claims 10-12 depend on claim 9.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mursalin B. Hafiz whose telephone number is 571-272-8604. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on 571-272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mbh


GEORGE ECKERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER